

Title: Release of FM 5-0, The Operations Process

What is it?

Field Manual (FM) 5-0, *The Operations Process*, is the Army's keystone doctrine on the exercise of command and control in full spectrum operations. No longer devoted exclusively to planning and orders production, FM 5-0 provides doctrine on how commanders and staff conduct all the activities of the operations process—planning, preparing, executing, and assessing. This manual focuses on how commanders drive the operations process using battle command. Additionally, FM 5-0 provides a methodology to assist commanders, staffs, and others in understanding complex, ill-structured problems and developing approaches to solve or manage those problems. Collectively this approach is referred to as design.

Why Revise?

Lessons learned from ongoing operations, the transformation to the modular force, and recent revisions to capstone and keystone joint and Army doctrine influenced major revisions to FM 5-0 (2005). Of the many lessons learned since 2001, a critical need to improve our ability to exercise the cognitive aspects of command and control (understanding and visualizing) stood out. Additionally, leaders identified a need to better describe how commanders, staffs, and others interact during operations. As part of the development strategy, drafts were staffed to military and civilian organizations to stimulate debate and gain consensus on how best to exercise command and control.

What efforts does the Army plan to continue in the future?

A significant effort is underway to educate the Army about FM 5-0 (2010). The FM 5-0 writing team will conduct education seminars with various Schools, Centers, and operational units. In addition, an interactive study guide will be available this July to assist in understanding FM 5-0 concepts.

Why is this important to the Army?

Army forces conduct full spectrum operations within a complex and ever-changing operational environment characterized by growing uncertainty and the need for greater decentralization. FM 5-0 describes how commanders, supported by their staffs, subordinate commanders, and civilian partners effectively exercise command and control.